Sunday September 25, 2022
Faith and Science
Part 4: Creator God?

Sun Sep 04: Can Science Answer It All?
Sun Sep 11: The Six Days of Genesis
Sun Sep 18: Origins of the Cosmos

Today: Creator God?

Is there a Creator God and was the universe created?

#1, EXISTENCE OF THE UNIVERSE: CREATION ATTESTS TO A CREATOR

Why is there a universe at all, why is there something rather than nothing?

Can something come from nothing?

Every effect must have a cause.
There is a universe.
The universe had a cause for it to come into being.
What is that which caused the universe into being?

Can a set of mathematical laws, mathematical models, scientific theory, be so clever and powerful enough to bring the universe into being?

"Amazing as it may seem, the most plausible answer to the question of why something exists rather than nothing is that God exists" – Dr. William Lane Craig, Christian Philosopher, and apologist

Genesis 1:1 (NASB)
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The belief that something spontaneously came from nothing with no external agency is not only counterintuitive but also irrational.

#2, UNIVERSE BY DESIGN: DESIGN CALLS FOR A DESIGNER

There is intelligence, design, and order that we observe in the universe.

'The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible.' – Albert Einstein

The spontaneous emergence of life on earth, astrophysicist Fred Hoyle observed, is about as likely as a tornado sweeping through a junkyard and assembling a Boeing 747 out of the debris.

Can chance produce intelligence?
Could accident result in purpose?
Can non-life create life?
Can chaos produce order?

The belief that chaos birthed order, is not only counterintuitive but also irrational.

Proverbs 3:19 (NASB)
The LORD founded the earth by wisdom, He established the heavens by understanding.

Jeremiah 10:12 (NASB)
It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.

God's wisdom and understanding is seen in all of Creation.

#3, FINE-TUNING OF THE UNIVERSE: PRECISION SPEAKS OF PURPOSE

Not only do we observe design in the universe but was also see that that the universe has been fine-tuned to support life on earth.

The following facts reaffirm universe by design (#2) and the fine-tuning of the universe (#3).

Precision of constants of nature
The fundamental constants of nature, from the energy levels in the carbon atom to the rate at which the universe is expanding, have just the right values for life to exist. Change any of them just a little, and the universe would become hostile to life and

incapable of supporting it. The constants are precision-tuned, and it is this fine-tuning that many scientists (and others) think demands an explanation.

The Anthropic Principle: The Anthropic Principle essentially says that all the arbitrary constants in physics represent the precise values needed for the universe to produce and sustain life. It is not known why the constants of nature take their observed values. Is it purely coincidence that the laws of nature work together to make life possible?

Gravity: The universe possesses the exact balance of initial conditions and the laws and parameters of physics to sustain life. It is fine-tuned beyond human comprehension. Take gravity for example. Imagine a linear radio dial that spans the universe. It is broken down into one-inch increments resulting in billions upon billions of inches, each representing a possible setting for the force of gravity. If you were to move the setting only one inch, the force of gravity would increase by a billionfold. All living creatures would be crushed in an instant.

The Cosmological Constant: Another parameter giving credence to the fine-tuning of the universe is called **the cosmological constant, the energy density of empty space**. Had this constant been large and negative, the resulting force would reverse the universe's expansion and cause it to collapse. Had it been large and positive, the resulting force would have prevented matter from clumping together. Amazingly the constant is quite small, baffling even the most avowed skeptics and atheists. The cosmological constant is so fine-tuned that it is beyond imagination. It would be like being far out in space, throwing a dart toward earth and hitting a bull's eye that measures one trillionth of a trillionth of an inch in diameter. That's staggering.

Gravity and the cosmological constant represent only two of more than **30 parameters** that must be precisely calibrated for life to exist in the universe.

The fine-tuning of the universe points powerfully toward an Intelligent Designer

Positioning of the Earth - fitness for life

We have discovered that the Earth is an especially unique place, that it possesses qualities which make it an inhabitable place like no other.

The earth is positioned is a precise safe zone in our galaxy that makes it conducive for life. Any minor change in position, and we cannot live.

For example, if our **distance from the sun** were to be altered in either direction by as little as five percent, life would not be possible.

It requires a star with the highly unusual properties of our sun - the right mass, the right light, the right composition, the right distance, the right orbit, the right galaxy, the right location - to nurture living organisms on a circling planet. That makes our sun, and our planet, rare indeed.

Complexity of design

Consider a single cell. The cell requires all the complex parts to be in precise relationship with the other parts. The parts could not have evolved because that would have rendered the cell useless since it requires each part to be fully operative.

Even the individual parts of the cell are so complex in their design and function.

The cilia, the whiplike hairs on the cell's surface. **Each cell has about 200 cilia**. They work in synchrony to help the human body expel foreign particles. They also help row the cell through fluid. How can they do this? Each cilium consists of about 200 protein parts which can be broken down into a complex system of rods, linkers, and motors. Each of these parts must be precisely connected to the others if the cilia are to function properly. No evolutionist has been able to demonstrate how these parts could have developed gradually.

Similar complexity can be observed in other parts of a single cell.

Irreducibly complex systems are strong evidence of a purposeful, intentional design by an intelligent agent.

Information in design

In 1953, Francis Crick and James D. Watson discovered DNA, the six feet of genetic information that is coiled inside of our body's one hundred trillion cells. Scientists marvel at how it provides the information needed to create all the proteins from which our bodies are constructed. Embedded in our 23 pairs of chromosomes are 30,000 genes that yield as many as 20,500 kinds of proteins.

"DNA serves as the information storehouse for a finely choreographed manufacturing process in which the right amino acids are linked together with the right bonds in the right sequence to produce the right kind of proteins that fold in the right way to build biological systems." This process is mind boggling and could not have happened outside of intelligent design.

For a protein molecule to be formed by chance you need the right bonds between the amino acids and only the left-handed ones. And then they must link up in a specified sequence. Calculate the probability and you will come up with a 10 with 25 zeroes on it. That's just for one molecule. And even the simpler cells need 300-500 protein molecules.

The probability of a protein molecule forming by chance is about the same as throwing scrabble letters down and generating a book. How improbable it is for even one protein molecule to evolve!

Romans 11:33-36 (NASB)
33 Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!
34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?
35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM, THAT IT WOULD BE PAID BACK TO HIM?
36 For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

#4, MIND, MORALITY AND RATIONALITY: THE INTANGIBLE POINT TO THE INVISIBLE

Science can explain the functions of the brain, but only I know what is happening in my mind (consciousness) - my thoughts, beliefs, passions, emotions, etc.

Each of us have the same organ - the brain, but each of us have our own mind - our own thoughts, feelings, and beliefs about things, our own temperament, etc.

How can mere matter give birth to consciousness?
How can mere matter give birth to living creatures with abilities to think, feel, and believe?

If you begin with an Intelligent Creator, then it's much easier to see how mind, morality and rationality came into existence – attributes given to created beings by the Creator.

The belief that lifeless matter acquired consciousness, morality and rationality through self-organization is not only counterintuitive but also irrational.

Genesis 2:7 (NASB)

Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person.

#5, SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA: THE SUPERNATURAL CONFIRMS THE SPIRITUAL

We cannot deny the miracles we see and experience.
We cannot deny demonic manifestations and the deliverance that takes place in the mighty name of Jesus.

God is Spirit. The experience of the supernatural confirms the spiritual, that God is.

To observe and experience the supernatural and to willingly disregard it, is not only intentional rejection of evidence but deliberate avoidance of truth.

Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)
And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.

With all this evidence around us, belief in God is a leap of faith into the light. It is acknowledging and accepting the evidence we see all around us. To deny the existence of God is a leap of faith into the dark, a willful rejection of obvious pointers to God.

REVIEW
We know the existence of a Creator God through these five observations:
#1, EXISTENCE OF THE UNIVERSE: CREATION ATTESTS TO A CREATOR
#2, UNIVERSE BY DESIGN: DESIGN CALLS FOR A DESIGNER
#3, FINE-TUNING OF THE UNIVERSE: PRECISION SPEAKS OF PURPOSE
a, Precision of constants of nature
b, Positioning of the Earth - fitness for life
c, Complexity of design
d, Information in design
#4, MIND, MORALITY AND RATIONALITY: THE INTANGIBLE POINT TO THE INVISIBLE
#5, SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA: THE SUPERNATURAL CONFIRMS THE SPIRITUAL

SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCES
There are also subjective experiences that we can have at a personal level that speak to us about the truth of God's existence and care for us.

WHO CREATED GOD?

Someone may ask the question: “who created God?”.
The very asking of this question reveals an assumption of a created God: “Who created God?” Created gods certainly are a delusion, a conjecture of human imagination.
However, the God who is revealed in the Bible is the eternal, self-existent, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, uncreated Creator.
The “who created God argument” is a non-question, a non-argument because God by Biblical definition is uncreated.

Isaiah 40:28 (NASB)
Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is unsearchable.

The Bible implicitly presents God as the eternal, self-existent Creator.

We see three eternal attributes of God in the verse:
Infinite in TIME – The Everlasting God
Infinite in POWER (or strength, energy) – Never becomes weary or tired
Infinite in UNDERSTANDING (design, intelligence) – His understanding is unsearchable

As human beings, we are finite. So really in attempting to know God, it is the finite that is trying to wrap itself (or brain) around what is infinite.

So, to begin with we must understand that there are limitations - the person explaining or providing a reason is finite and cannot adequately describe everything about the infinite. So also, the person asking questions is finite and is also not going to understand everything about God who is infinite.

There are at least two kinds of people who oppose this truth.:
The atheist: An atheist is one who denies the existence of God.
The agnostic: An agnostic is one who believes it impossible to know anything about God or about the creation of the universe and refrains from commitment to any religious doctrine.

Atheism requires "omniscience” because the atheist is making a positive statement that there is no God. To do this is to assume that the atheist knows it all, has explored everything that is there to be explored, examined everything that is there, and has not found God, and hence has concluded that "God does not exist". Of course, we know that

this is not possible. Hence, the emphatic statement made by the atheist that "God does not exist" itself has no basis.

The agnostic states that you cannot know for sure whether God exists or not. Essentially, the agnostic states that truth is not knowable. The problem is that they take this statement itself as "truth", which in their own terms, is a questionable statement.

Psalm 14:1 (NASB)
The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

Man, in an attempt to be intelligent, often misses God or sometimes even willfully suppresses the truth and refuses to acknowledge the Creator God.

Here are some important truths the Bible teaches us about Creator God:

GOD IS THE ETERNAL, SELF-EXISTENT, UNCREATED CREATOR
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

GOD IS INFINITELY GREATER THAN WHAT HE CREATED, AND REVEALS HIMSELF IN PART IN HIS CREATION

God created the universe, but he is not identical with it.

Romans 1:20 (NASB)
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

GOD IS A PERSONAL GOD, WHO CREATED US FOR FELLOWSHIP
"So, both Genesis and science say that the universe is geared to supporting human life. But Genesis says more. It says that you, as a human being, bear the image of God. The starry heavens show the glory of God, yes; but they are not made in God's image. You are. That makes you unique. It gives you incalculable value. The galaxies are unimaginably large compared with you. However, you know that they exist, but they don't know that you exist. You are more significant, therefore, than a galaxy. Size is not necessarily a reliable measure of value, as any woman can tell you as she looks at the diamonds on her finger and compares them with lumps of coal." – John Lennox

A Personal God

If we embrace that God exists and this God created everything, and He created people in His own image, then we must take this one step further and understand that **God must at least be "personal" and "relational" because He created humans to be personal and relational.** If God is not personal, then He is less capable than we are and that is not true! **God created us personal and relational because He wants to be personal and relational with us. He wants to relate to us, creatures He made in His own image.**

God makes it possible for us to be part of His family through His Son Jesus Christ.

References:

John C. Lennox, Seven Days That Divide the World The Beginning According to Genesis and Science
Lee Strobel, The Case For A Creator
carm.org
reasonablefaith.org

SALVATION CALL (BY YOUR FREE CHOICE AND FREE WILL)

If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8
If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12
If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6
If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12
If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12
If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 16:30-31
As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday September 25, 2022
Faith and Science
Part 4: Creator God?

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: Proverbs 3:19, Jeremiah 10:12, Romans 1:20

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, God and His divine attributes are revealed in His creation.
We see God giving evidence to His existence through these five general observations. Take time to review/discuss these:

#1, EXISTENCE OF THE UNIVERSE: CREATION ATTESTS TO A CREATOR
#2, UNIVERSE BY DESIGN: DESIGN CALLS FOR A DESIGNER
#3, FINE-TUNING OF THE UNIVERSE: PRECISION SPEAKS OF PURPOSE

a, Precision of constants of nature
b, Positioning of the Earth - fitness for life
c, Complexity of design
d, Information in design
#4, MIND, MORALITY AND RATIONALITY: THE INTANGIBLE POINT TO THE INVISIBLE
#5, SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA: THE SUPERNATURAL CONFIRMS THE SPIRITUAL

2, There are also subjective experiences that we can have that speak to us at a personal level about the truth of God's existence and care for us. Share any such experiences.

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon series on faith and science, our intent is to address some of the common questions that arise in conversations around faith and science. Questions about the existence of God, origin of this universe, origin of life, the creation account as given in the book of Genesis in the Bible, and faith and science – is it possible to be a person of faith, while engaging in science, and so on? Our goal is to address these questions in as simple a manner as possible and share information that will be useful. This is a five-part sermon series. Part-1: Can Science explain it all? Part-2: The Six days of Genesis. Part-3: Origins of the Cosmos. Part-4: Creator God? Part-5: Origin of the Species.

In this sermon we point to five observable indicators to the existence of Creator God. We briefly address the question "who created God?". We then point to God's ultimate purpose in creating us, people.

KEYWORDS :

Faith and science, religion and reason, creator God, cosmology, evolutionary biology, Genesis, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:

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